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Confirmation / Pentecost Sunday / Communion

Acts 2:1-4, 42-47

Thomas Michael Smith
CPC 6/3/01

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Sermon Comments

- **Pentecost was a Jewish festival celebrated fifty days after the Passover**
- **As Pat mentioned in the Children's Time, it was associated with a spring harvest festival**
- **It was also associated with the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai, where there was lightning (divine fire) and wind**
- **The gifts of God - in the Old Testament = the Law; in the New Testament = the Holy Spirit**
- **What is the faithful human response to a gift?**
- **If it's from you to me, it is gratitude**
- **If it's from God to me, it is gratitude and obedience**
- **Jesus lived, preached and demonstrated the kingdom of God, died, rose, stayed 40 days, and ascended**
- **On Pentecost Day, the long-promised (in the OT) Holy Spirit was finally 'poured out on all flesh'**
- **On Pentecost Day, the CHURCH began**
- **But … Pentecost at CPC is not so much a celebration of an event as a reaffirmation of a life-long commitment**
- **For if Jesus showed us the Father, the Holy Spirit shows us how to take God's love to each other**
- **Thus, Pentecost is never about a particular spiritual gift**
- **It is about how a people can be empowered to live out the kingdom of God, today!**
- **Look at what happened just after that first Pentecost Day:**
- **People came to Christ as Lord and Savior**
- **People fellowshipped**
- **People broke bread together**
- **People shared what they had so no one had any need**
- **People prayed and praised and worshipped the Lord**
- **The post-Pentecost church was an extraordinary, loving, growing community of believers!**
- **Last weekend, I was at a conference over a series of days with a number of people from CPC We tended to sit grouped in two or three pews in this large church in San Mateo**
- **On several occasions, persons from our group were deeply touched by the teaching**
- **The rest of us would seek to pray with and minister to the one who was touched**
- **Twice over our time at the conference, people in front of our group or behind our group commented on how we cared for one another**

- **Such care is made possible by the Holy Spirit, and by the infilling of the Spirit in lives**

- **When each of us was baptized, we were tagged by God - touched as His**
- **The Confirmation of these young people this morning is a reaffirmation of that baptism**
- **As well as a new or ongoing commitment to live out the kingdom of God**
- **Join with me now, as we all reaffirm our baptismal covenants in a special service of recommissioning**
- **(everyone please hold onto your neighbor, I want the whole congregation connected for this time)**

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